

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 23-28 are pending in the application. These claims were rejected as follows:

Claims / Section	35 U.S.C. Sec.	References / Notes
1-3, 8-9, 23 & 24	§102(e) Anticipation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tamura, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,861,577).
1, 2, 8, 9, 27 & 28	§102(b) Anticipation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gurevich, et al. (U.S. Patent No. RE 33,137).
5	§103(a) Obviousness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tamura, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,861,577); or• Gurevich, et al. (U.S. Patent No. RE 33,137).
23, 24 & 26	§103(a) Obviousness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gurevich, et al. (U.S. Patent No. RE 33,137).
6, 7, 10 & 25	§103(a) Obviousness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tamura, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,861,577); or• Gurevich, et al. (U.S. Patent No. RE 33,137); and• APA

5 Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 23 and 28 to include the limitations of claim 6 (the latter cancelled in this Amendment) and have provided discussion for distinguishing the present invention, with claims as amended, from the art cited against it. Applicants have further added claims 29-31 for consideration by the Examiner.

10 Applicants' use of reference characters below is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to be limiting in nature unless explicitly indicated.

All of the rejections of claims other than claim 6 have been rendered moot by the present amendment that incorporates the limitations of claim 6 into each independent claim, and therefore the discussion below focuses on the

obviousness rejection based on the combination of Tamura, Gurevich, and the Admitted Prior Art (APA).

**35 U.S.C. §103(a), CLAIMS 6, 7, 10 AND 25 OBVIOUSNESS OVER TAMURA,
GUREVICH, AND ADMITTED PRIOR ART**

- 5 1. *The combination of Guervich, Tamura, and APA fails to teach or suggest the use of a body comprising at least partially cross-linked plastic.*

In the OA, on pp. 6-7, under numbered paragraph 8, the Examiner states:

10 Gurevich et al or Tamura et al disclose al the claimed invention of producing the electronic or electrical component except the body comprises at least partially cross-linked plastic and the pressure is generated by the cross-liking of the plastic of the body which is crosslinked thermally or by exposure for improving the elasticity of the silicon elastomer (See
15 Spec page 2, line 25 to page 3). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify either Gurevich et al or Tamura et alto have the body comprising cross-link plastic by thermally [sic] or
20 exposure as taught by Admitted Prior Art for improving the elasticity of the silicon elastomer.

 However, the Examiner mischaracterizes the APA. The described prior art concerns cross-linkable silicon, which is applied by an injection molding
25 process and thus is applied in a liquid form.

 Accordingly, the body of amended claim 1 (previous claim 6) is not in a liquid form such that the component can be inserted into the body, as required by the elements of the claim. It would not make sense to combine the teachings of Tamura disclosing only the application of a specific mechanical pressure or the
30 teachings of Guverich with the APA describing cross-linkable silicon applied in liquid form to arrive at the present invention, with claims as amended—there is

no teaching or suggestion to use a body comprising at least partially cross-linked plastic as its basis, since the inventive process according to the amended claims results in a passivation of the whole surface of the electrical component, which cannot be achieved by the teachings of the art cited by the Examiner.

5 The use of a configuration according to the amended claims provides the simultaneous advantages of a high dimensional stability of the body that has at the same time a sufficient fluidity—this combination of advantages would not be arrived at by the teachings of the prior art.

Applicants have further added new claims 29-31 for consideration by the Examiner. Claim 29 encompasses the use of an isostatic application of pressure. Supporting disclosure can be found on page 5 of the Specification, beginning at line 16. Claim 30 addresses the use of drain openings, as described on page 6, lines 13 to 16. Finally, claim 31 includes the use of an internal adhesion agent, as described on p. 6, lines 4 to 12.

15 Applicants submit that the features of these claims are not taught or
suggested by the prior art of record in this case.

For the reasons described above, the Applicants assert that the amended claim language clearly distinguishes over the prior art, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the \$103(a) rejection from the present application.


20 CONCLUSION

Inasmuch as each of the objections have been overcome by the amendments, and all of the Examiner's suggestions and requirements have been satisfied, it is respectfully requested that the present application be reconsidered,

the rejections be withdrawn and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in
this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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